

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 04743 201653Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 AF-06

/066 W

----- 002406

R 201458Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3833

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: MADEIRA INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

SUMMARY: SEPARATISM IN MADEIRA IS APPARENTLY GROWING AS RESULT OF LISBON'S FAILURE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF ARCHIPELAGO. THE PRIMARY BENEFICIARY OF THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN THE FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE MADEIRAN ARCHIPELAGO (FLAMA). END SUMMARY.

1. GROWTH OF SEPARATISM IN MADEIRA HAS BEGUN TO HIT LISBON

PRESS. RECENT ARTICLE SAID FOLLOWING:

--THE MADEIRAN ECONOMY IS ON THE SKIDS. UNEMPLOYMENT IS RISING, CREDIT IS TIGHT, LABOR DISPUTES ARE ENDEMIC, AND MANY BUSINESSES HAVE GONE OR ARE ABOUT TO GO BANKRUPT. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 04743 201653Z

HAS FAILED TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS WHILE,

BY DELAYING PROMISED DECENTRALIZATION OF ADMINISTRATION, IT HAS PREVENTED ISLANDERS FROM FINDING THEIR OWN SOLUTIONS. AS A RESULT, MADEIRANS OF ALL CLASSES, BUT ESPECIALLY THE "BOURGEOISIE" ARE COMING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT INDEPENDENCE FROM THE CONTINENT IS NECESSARY.

--FLAMA: THE PRIMARY BENEFICIARY OF THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN THE FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE MADEIRAN ARCHIPELAGO (FRENTE DA LIBERTACAO DE ARQUIPELAGO DA MADEIRA--FLAMA). FLAMA'S GOAL IS TOTAL INDEPENDENCE FROM PORTUGAL; NEITHER THE CONCESSION TO THE ISLANDS OF ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY OR THE CREATION OF A LOCAL, REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNING BODY IS AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE. INDEPENDENCE WILL BE ACHIEVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS WHEN THE BULK OF MADEIRANS BECOME CONVINCED IT IS NECESSARY. FLAMA HAS ARMS, HOWEVER, AND PERSONNEL (AFRICAN WAR VETERANS) TRAINED IN THEIR USE; THE FRONT CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR A BOMB ATTACK ON EMISSORA NACIONAL INSTALLATIONS IN FUNCHAL. THE FRONT'S PRINCIPAL LEADER IS A MADEIRAN LIVING IN FLORIDA. A CLANDESTINE GOVERNMENT IN EXILE HAS BEEN FORMED. ANOTHER SEPARATIST ORGANIZATION, THE LIBERATION ARMY OF THE MADEIRAN ARCHIPELAGO, MAY ALSO EXIST.

--NEUTRALIZATION POSSIBLE: SEPARATIST SENTIMENT CAN BE NEUTRALIZED. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE GROWTH OF SEPARATISM IN MADEIRA IS PRIMARILY THE RESULT NOT OF REACTIONARY MANEUVERS BUT OF ITS OWN INACTION. THIS RECOGNIZATION MUST BE FOLLOWED BY DECISIVE ACTION. SUCH ACTION WILL BE EXPENSIVE, BUT WILL ONLY BE MADE MORE SO BY FURTHER DELAY.

2. COMMENT: INCREASE IN SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE PARALLELS SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT IN THE AZORES AND IS DIRECT FUNCTION OF LEFTWARD SWING AND ADMINISTRATIVE INCOMPETENCE OF GONCALVES REGIME. PROMPT ACTION BY THE GOP WOULD PROBABLY BE SUCCESSFUL IN TURNING OFF THE MADEIRA INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT. HOWEVER, DELAY AND INACTION, THE MORE LIKELY GOP RESPONSE, WILL LEAD TO A SITUATION, WHICH MAY ALREADY HAVE OCCURRED IN THE AZORES, WHERE THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT ACQUIRES SO MUCH MOMENTUM THAT IT CANNOT BE TURNED OFF. MADEIRA, LIKE THE AZORES, IS AN ECONOMICALLY VIABLE UNIT AND DERIVES NO PARTICULAR BENEFITS FROM ITS ASSOCIATION WITH PORTUGAL.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARCHIPELAGO, SELFDETERMINATION, MADEIRA, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON04743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750288-0480
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750836/aaaabffi.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MADEIRA INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT SUMMARY: SEPARATISM IN MADEIRA IS APPARENTLY GROWING AS RESULT
TAGS: PINT, PO, FLAMA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006